GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:538
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2001
PATENTING OF INDIA`S GENETIC RESOURCES
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of patenting of India`s genetic resources abroad have come to the notice of the Government on a large scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to check such activities?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) & (b) : Certain cases relating to the patenting abroad of the uses and properties of Indian genetic resources have come to the notice of the Government. Examples include the uses of neem, turmeric, brinjal, jamun, karela, basmati rice etc. However, as per available information, genetic resources per se have not been patented from India.

(c) : Several legislative and other measures have been taken to check such activities by various departments and agencies of the government.